April 1, 1968

SPECIAL REPORT
OF THE
STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS BOARD CONCERNING THE WMUA CONTROVERSY

Background:

The following information was compiled from two memoranda submitted by representatives of station WMUA, oral questioning of such representatives at two Communications Board meetings, and a memorandum submitted by Secretary McCartney to the Board. The Secretary did not personally appear before the Board at its meeting of March 19, 1968 to respond to the questions raised by the WMUA complaint, so that some of the materials contained herein are necessarily those furnished to the Board ex parte. An accompanying special report will outline the Board's position on the failure of Secretary McCartney to respond to the Board's invitation to present the administration's position and to answer questions.

The Facts:

On February 15, 1968, an anti-Dow Chemical demonstration and "sit-in" occurred at the Student Union. The event was covered "live" by station WMUA, the campus outlet. At that time, during the course of the proceedings, there were some instances of profanity, and they were broadcast.

As a result of this meeting, several members of the administration agreed to meet with the leadership of the activist demonstrators at the "Cage" on the evening of February 19, 1968. The meeting was to be public and was held at the "Cage" to facilitate the appearance of as many students as possible to discuss campus issues going beyond the problem of Dow Chemical's right to recruit on campus. Late Friday afternoon, February 16th, one day after the agreement between administrators and students had been reached, WMUA was informed by the administration that it could not broadcast the proceedings "live." Apparently, the decision to ban "live" broadcast had been reached within the administration early Friday morning.